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# The AMERICAN FANCIER AND BREEDER



Vol. 19.

De Kalb, Illinois., May, 1902.

No. 5.



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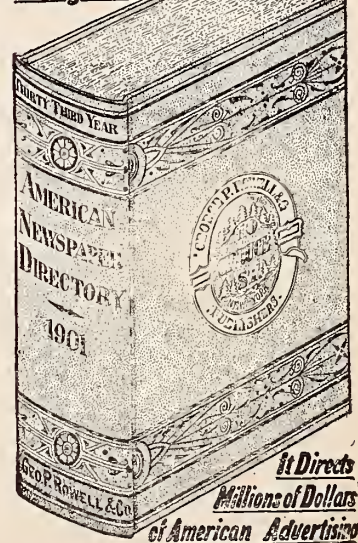
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# The American FANCIER and BREEDER.

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO POULTRY CULTURE.

Vol. 19

DE KALB, ILLINOIS, MAY, 1902.

No. 5.

## *Brooders and Brooder Chicks.*

When I first began changing off from setting hen brooders, I felt so sorry for the little chicks. It seemed to me they would pine away and die if they didn't have a mother hen just to cluck for them, but about the next thing I would see a hen jump up and run trailing off, leaving her brood to fello as best they could, while the warm brooder set and hovered hers. She didn't need to cluck, because she didn't jump and run, making it necessary for the chicks to trail after. They soon learn that she was always there, and when too far away and anything frightened them they run back to her and always knew that she would be there.

I have one small brooder that I put the chicks in when first hatched. When they outgrow this or when I need it for the next batch and transfer the older ones to another they never forget their first mother. It is painted blue, and when I have it cleaned and set out to sun the big chicks will come and hover around and on it; that is, will creep in at the door and sit down even when they get so big they can hardly creep under the hover.

All the little brooder chicks need the first few days is to be kept warm and quiet and fed as possible until they get hungry.

Our first feed is rolled oats. Scatter the flakes about. It is surprising to see them double the flakes back of their little hooked tongues and swallow them. They will eat the oat flakes greedily for about ten days and seem to care for little else. Then corn bread is the best feed to change off. Soon they will take whole wheat and cracked corn. After they are a month old they can eat almost anything and do well on it. Water must be given in something that they cannot get into and get wet. If they given all the water they want right from the start and plenty of it kept before them at all times, they will not get themselves so soaking wet. It is when they have been witeout water too long that they wade right in and over one another until they are like drowned rats.

It is better to let the brooder get a little too cool than to let it get too warm, though one should not go to extremes either way. But if the brooder gets a little cool they can bunch up and keep warm, but if it gets too hot there is no escape.

If one could always have everything "just so" and every egg hatch and every

chick live, what a happy family we poultry folks would be. But there is always the possibility of something going wrong. So when everything goes right for a while we congratulate ourselves and feel quite proud, because we think we did it. But whether success or failure crowns our efforts, we should be thankful for all the good that come our way and not to discouraged over our seeming failure is a lesson if we can but see it in the right light and apply it rightly.

## *The Road to Failure.*

If instruction how to succeed in the poultry business there is no lack, for this subject has been treated from every possible view-point. Instructions regarding how to fail in this business does not seem necessary, because there is no use in trying to deny the fact that failures are plentyful and not hard to find.

Very often we learn how to succeed by knowing what has brought failure to others. If we stop to think why it is that so many fail we may be able to avoid the stumbling block which have been enough to cause others to fall by the way and drop out of the list of poultry-breeders.

In another place we have pointed out that the beginner often expects to much at first. These often fail because they have not reached the high mark they aimed at with the first shot. It is well to aim high, but to get discouraged because the first shot fails to reach the mark is usually about the first obstacle the beginner finds.

Another reason why so many fall out is that they do not find costumers for eggs and stock the first time they offer them for sale. This should not be expected. The man who buys very naturally prefers to buy of the breeder who has had some experience. No one should expect to make a profit on his business the first year. If he pays expenses the first year he is doing well.

Every poultry-breeder in this country who has a wide reputation will bear us out in saying that there was a time during the first three years he was engaged in the business when he began to doubt whether he would succeed. These breeders had the courage and the persistence necessary to stand to their colors and in the end they came off victorious.

Another step on the road to failure is trying to save money in the purchase of eggs and stock. The beginners asks breeders to name their lowest price, and they do so, fully intending to give value for the money

received, and doing so, if they get the order. If it is eggs the cheap ones never come from prize winners, when the breeder makes two or more prices. The beginner argues that from the cheapest eggs he may get some very good ones, and the argument is good, for from 100 eggs from the poorest pen of a noted breeder it is not rare to get some birds that are as good as any that might have come from the best pen in the country. But these eggs are from pens containing fowls which have some defect in the eye of the breeder, and unfortunately defects descend as readily as perfection and even more readily.

Lacking experience the beginner is not able to differentiate between the good and bad and concludes that he can sell eggs cheaper and sell all he gets. If he finds costumers he discovers at the end of the season that they are dissatisfied because their chicks are not as good as they should be. This is a long step on the road to failure. The best advertisement any breeder can have is a satisfied customer. The first one a customer who has a grievance.

Dissatisfaction among costumers leads to dissatisfaction in the beginner with his own birds. This cools his enthusiasm and breeds neglect, and is the beginning of the end. It is all down hill after that and before very long the pure-breds are turned out to make their own way and another failure is scored.

There can be no doubt about the stability of the poultry business. It is as firmly founded as any industry on earth. There are hundreds of examples to prove that persistent, painstaking effort leads up the hill to success, but no one should go into the poultry business expecting it to build itself up without being pushed. It is a business that pays for all the care put into it no matter how much that may be. It is the best business open to the man or woman who has a small capital. It is a business that can be carried to a successful issue with a small place and little money, but economy in buying foundation stock is the very first step on the road to failure.

One poultryman in Illinois, whom we know intimately began with no land and but little money. He now owns a big farm, thousands of fowls of every kind and at the time this is written is selling eggs and stock at the rate of hundreds of dollars each week, his orders amounting to as much as \$300 in one day recently. He started right and stuck to it. That is the secret of success and all there is to it.—Commercial Poultry.

*Whole Kafir-corn Compared with Ground Kafir-corn for Young Calves.*

EXPERIMENT STATION, MANHATTAN, KAN.,  
MAY 6, 1902.

Twenty head of young grade Hereford, Short-horn and Angus calves were purchased by the Kansas experiment Station during April and May, 1901. The feed of these calves was gradually changed to skim-milk, with what grain they would eat, composed of a mixture of whole and ground Kafir-corn. It was found that the calves would eat the ground Kafir-corn when from ten days to two weeks of age, and would begin to eat the whole Kafir-corn when from three to four weeks old. On June 19, these calves were divided into lots, as nearly equal as possible, the lot to receive ground Kafir-corn weighing 1570 pounds, or 157 pounds per calf, and the one to receive whole Kafir-corn weighed 1577 pounds or 157.7 pounds per head. Each lot was fed all the skim-milk, grain and hay the calves would eat without scouring. The roughness for both lots consisted of prairie hay only until the calves were twelve weeks old. Alfalfa was then added gradually, and for a time constituted one-half of the roughness fed, and later supplanted the prairie hay altogether. Fresh water and salt were available at all times.

GROUND KAFIR-CORN LOT.—For the one hundred and twelve days under experiment, these ten calves consumed 14748 pounds of skim-milk, 1394 pounds of ground Kafir-corn, 2381 pounds of prairie hay, 125 pounds orchard-grass hay, and 6222 pounds alfalfa hay. The total gain of the lot during the experiment was 1580 pounds, or 1.41 pounds daily per calf. With skim-milk at fifteen cents per hundred weight, grain at fifty cents per hundred weight (plus three cents per bushel or six cents per hundred weight for grinding), and hay at \$4.00 per ton, the feed-cost of raising these calves amounts to \$47.37, or \$4.73 per. The cost per hundred pounds of gain is as follows: Skim-milk, \$1.40; grain, \$0.49; roughness, 1.10; total, \$2.99.

WHOLE KAFIR-CORN LOT.—These calves consumed 14620 pounds of skim-milk, 1641 pounds of whole Kafir-corn, 2381 pounds prairie hay, 125 pounds orchard-grass hay and 5982 pounds alfalfa hay. The total gain was 1406 pounds, or 1.26 pounds daily per calf. The feed-cost amount to \$47.09, or \$4.70 per head. The cost per hundred pounds of gain is as follows: Skim-milk, \$1.56; grain, \$0.58; roughness, \$1.20; total, \$3.34.

Comparing the two lots it will be noticed that the whole Kafir-corn lot consumed 247 pounds more grain but 240 pounds less of alfalfa hay and made 74 pounds less gain. There were a large number of grains, in the case of the whole Kafir-corn lot, that passed through the calves, undigested. This experiment indicates that better and more e-

conomical gains are made from ground Kafir-corn than from the whole grain. Nevertheless, if a man is so situated that he cannot grind his Kafir-corn, very fair gains can be made with the whole seed. Again, it is possible to feed the ground Kafir-corn the first two or three months and gradually change to the whole. The weekly weights and gains show that the calves receiving whole Kafir-corn gained nearly as well the last five weeks of the experiment as those receiving the ground Kafir-corn. Feed ground Kafir-corn until the calf is three or four months old—then if it is more convenient or economical the whole Kafir-corn may be substituted.

D. H. Otis.

*Ventilation.*

We have so many inquiries about what is the proper method of ventilating poultry houses. At one time this was a matter that puzzled poultrymen and many dollars have been spent on various methods which had to be discarded later on. There are so many cases where but little ventilation is needed and again a good deal of it is needed. So far as our observation goes the greater part of the poultry houses have too much ventilation. Ventilation is apparent on all sides and through the roof as well.

We have seen houses with nice ventilating shafts, some opening at the floor and others near the top so as to let out all the foul air. If nothing but the foul air should go out of such places it would be ideal ventilation, but since heated air goes out and drafts of cold air comes in to take the place of that which passes out that we have a sort of commotion of air and the cold air has to become heated again without the aid of a stove. We have noted a method of ventilation which we have never seen explained by any writer which seems to be all right theoretically. It consists of cutting a couple of holes in the sides of the poultry house about six inches square over which is tacked some heavy muslin to keep out the drafts of air. This looks all right, but we do not recommend it.

Our own method of ventilating poultry houses is to have the droppings fall on a dropping board to be cleaned out from two to four times a week according to the conditions of the weather. When the fowls are in the scratching shed exercising and taking their meal of grain scattered in the litter, the roosting quarters are opened up and cleaned out. While this work is going on the foul air is exchanging places with the pure air on the outside. After the work is done and all is made nice and clean, the doors and windows are closed for the day and all is made ready for the evening. The opening is opened for the fowls to come back through into the roosting quarters and all is nice and sweet. A goodly amount of slacked lime and coal ashes are always used to assist in keeping these quarters sweet. As a rule we have little use for any other kind of ventilation than this.

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*The Best to Begin With.*

Nowadays it is rather a difficult task to make a choice among our thoroughbred breeds, unless we have certain objects in view to favor the keeping one breed in preference to another. Every standard breed has certain useful or fancy points which, when compared, leave but little preference. But when we give a decided preference to one breed above another, without having some experience or knowledge of their qualities to sustain us, we are perhaps over-estimating them, and not giving due credit to this or that one we consider inferior.

However (with or without a choice of breeds) in buying pure-bred poultry it is always best, where it can be done, to buy of reliable breeders, and from those who properly tend and give their fowls ample range, or all the exercise it is proper to give through all seasons. Very often birds are bought from a party who keep them confined all the year; are often diseased, and if not apparently, have diseases lurking in their system for want of exercise and pure air.

The possession of the best possible stock, vigorous and healthy to the core, is a matter of paramount importance to any one who makes poultry breeding a business. Neglect to attend to this important merit is attended with losses that should bring about reform with all who wish for permanent success. No one will deny that there is a marked difference in the useful qualities of individual animals, and it is the same with our domestic poultry. To the unthining mind such things seldom, if ever, enter the realm of his clouded philosophy.

Our experience compels us to say that there is no stock so productive as our thoroughbred, because they have been bred in accordance with a system, and with the object in view of producing qualities of great excellence.

White-wash with a spray pump thoroughly.

*Keeping Eggs Alive.*

The fertility of eggs is often destroyed by cold weather, and often the same degree of cold will impair or destroy one egg and not another, which is probably due to the construction of the egg, its shell or lining membrane, so that care is necessary to gather the egg before being exposed, and afterward keeping it where it will remain at the proper temperature.

During cold, blustry, stormy weather, such as we often have in March and April, it is well to gather in the eggs frequently during the day, for while we hold that eggs are much harder to chill so thoroughly that their vitality is altogether destroyed, yet much chilling is not a desirable thing and may weaken the future chick. This plan will prevent hens learning to eat eggs, from eating any chance or frozen eggs. This will not deeply concern the fanciers of good poultry and regular market poulters, for they seldom have fowls kept in a place where eggs would freeze, but many farmers' fowl houses do not admit to the same encomium. But if extreme cold is injurious, too great heat is equally undesirable. When eggs must be kept a week or more before being placed under a hen or into an incubator they should be kept in a cool place, not too dry, and where they may be turned over every few days. Eggs can be kept in such a manner that when over three weeks have elapsed their vitality does not appear to be in the least affected.

The packing of eggs for shipping in cold weather should be made with a view to keeping out the cold. Covering eggs with cotton, and wrapping the whole in tissue-paper is good, but there are so many ways for doing up eggs for this purpose which are commended that the shipper should study them for himself.

*The Farmer vs. Pure Bred Poultry.*

Every poultry journal which comes to my desk (and I get eight of them) contains so much valuable advice about pure bred poultry, and in such forceful and plain language the able writers demonstrate the practical value of pure bred stock, that the thought involuntarily rises in me, why so few farmers have anything near like pure bred fowls. I come in daily contact with farmers (having lived on a farm, myself, for years) and as I am known all over this country as "the chicken crank," the conversation naturally leads to chickens. But how few, how very few give this matter a second thought? A chicken is a chicken, according to their way of arguing, and one egg fetches no more than another egg when brought to the country stores.

I do not advance this state of affairs as something novel. Alas, it is only too well known to most of us, and it is also universal. Now arises the point: How can we remedy this, and by remedying this evil, and this ignorance, confer a blessing both upon

the farmers, as well as upon ourselves, the fanciers.

The farmer's institutes discuss for hours at a time, the value of manure, (often in language not understood by anyone present, except perhaps by the demonstrator.) But when it comes to poultry, the "Morgage lifting hen," the feeder of millions of people, whose commercial value, last year, amounted to \$360,000,000, only a small half hour is devoted to the discussion, and the little he or she thinks they know, do not know how to impress it upon their audience in a convincing, pleasant and forceful manner.

It is also obvious that the poultry press does not circulate among the farmers like it does, among the fanciers, those who own perhaps only a town lot or a few acres. Some of the general farmers' papers contain a column or so to Biddy, but the space devoted is so small and insignificant as to escape the farmers' notice.

Who of our readers can suggest a plan whereby the farmer can be reached? To him or her, who can suggest a feasible plan, a laurel wreath should be given, as it would confer a great boon to a larger number of persons interested than any thing ever undertaken.—A. S. Muller in Poultry Culture.

*Why Hens Should Be Retained.*

The value of a thing consists not only of its material, but of its capacity to produce. The advocates of pullets in place of hens claim that the hens can be sold in market, which sum they place to the credit of the hen. The egg, the flesh of the carcass, and the chicks raised by the hen are supposed to be what her owner receives. But where is the pullet that is to take her place when the hen is sold? The answer is that the pullet must be hatched and raised," and that is an expense that is not found in the estimate when the advice is given to replace the hens with early pullets. It is costly to raise the layers every year. For instance, let us suppose that it costs one dollar to raise a chick from the egg until it begins laying, to say nothing of the time lost. If the pullet is kept for laying only one year she monopolizes the entire sum of one dollar, and must lay a dollar's worth of eggs before she can begin to give a profit over her first cost, and she must also be supported while she is so doing. If she is kept two years the first cost of raising her is fifty cents a year.

If kept four years her annual cost for expenses the first year (before she began to lay) is twenty-five cents a year. Hence the longer she is retained as a layer the smaller the cost of the pullet. Then it must be considered that if one has one hundred pullets to take their place, he must provide room for two hundred, although he really has but one hundred layers. It is the cheaper plan to retain the hens as long as profitable, for no matter how much more valuable the pullet may be, you must first raise you pullet.

*Spreading Diseases.*

Fowls will pick at anything on the ground, hence it is rendered necessary to remove all fowls that are sick, or at the first appearance of any illness at all. The droppings, the drinking water, and the disease germs in the food, will all induce the spread of disease. In cases of roup, especially, the discharge from the nostrils is sure to come in contact with the water and food, and disease is spread rapidly. If a fowl acts in any way different from the other birds it is best to remove it at once without stopping to see whether it will improve. A little care and watchfulness may save a great deal of trouble, expense and life.—Poultry Herald.

*No Dull Times. Comparatively.*

The present year of grace and the one preceding will be long remembered in the financial history of the country as fraught with failures, suffering, and general stagnation in all branches of trade. Every avenue of business and industry has seemed to be closed, "hard times" has become a national phrase, and the country cannot at present shake it off, and more than the Old Man of the Mountain, in the story of Sinbad the Sailor, could shake off his incubus.

In the general avalanche which has swept down industries, the poultry trade has suffered less than any other business. Although millions are invested in it, yet the capital is so nicely and evenly distributed among the thousands engaged in the avocation, that depression is little felt. The produce of other industries is a drug in the market, prices are below "hard pan," manufacturing establishments have either suspended business, or are working half-time and on half-pay. Every commodity for household use rates low, and a decline in all merchantable articles prevails to an alarming extent. But if we compare the poultry trade with any other staple business, we will find that poultrymen are more favored than any other class of producers in the country.

As soon as eggs become cheap unusual quantities are at once consumed. The poorer classes forsake meat and substitute this preferable diet. In the Middle and Western States prices always rule lower than in the Eastern States. Fresh eggs during 1885 have ranged in local markets from eight to eighteen cents per dozen. Though this reduction is unusual, the like not happening before in twenty-five years, still Western poulters are not discouraged at this seemingly low price. Eggs, live and dressed fowls always command ready cash sales. Not so with butter and other articles in local traffic. A dollar nowadays goes further in purchasing most of the necessaries in use for household purposes, clothing, agricultural or mechanical stocks and tools, than two dollars would a few years ago.

Another important item which should not be lost sight of in our comparisons, is the cheapness of materials and labor for the

# The AMERICAN FANCIER and BREEDER

Published the 15th of each month.

By The AMERICAN FANCIER and BREEDER PUB., CO.

DEKALB, ILL., MAY, 1902.

Subscription Price.—25 Cents per year in advance. Single copies 3 cts. Subscriptions can commence with any month.

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The Donley Disinfectant as advertised in this number is one of the best remedies for scaly legs ever produced. Guaranteed to cure. See ad on page 6.

See the advertisement of Taylor Bros., in this number and purchase your incubator thermometer of them. Mention this paper.

## LEARNING TO SWIM.

The value of swimming as an exercise has been proved by some of the most famous athletes, and the mastery of this accomplishment, moreover, may some day mean the saving of human life. That boys and girls should be taught to swim admits of no argument. As it is the majority of children fear the water, and much of this fear is due to the misguided anxiety of their parents. The trouble with beginners is that they make too much of the task; provided the effort is made, the slightest muscular exertion will suffice to keep one afloat. How readily one may learn to swim is shown in the June Delineator, by a expert in the art, who describes the various strokes, floats,

diving, costume, etc., in the simplest manner possible. Some striking pictures taken from life are shown.

Continued from page 3.

construction of fowl-houses, runs and apartments, and also the low prices of poultry feed. Heretofore we usually estimated a dollar or a dollar and a half a year for the support or probable cost of keeping each adult fowl. Now we can keep them in as good thrift and condition for about half that sum.

The head of the fowl is an important feature, and when in good shape, with fine comb, good colored eye and wattles of good shape, it is a section that will at once attract the attention of the fancier. An ungainly, ill-shaped comb detracts very much from the appearance of any bird, and even if good in other sections such a comb will prove a great drawback. The color of the eye is also an important feature, and a bird with a pale, faded eye, when the color should be bright and strong, is often condemned for use as a breeder, even when good in other respects. Some fanciers make a sort of hobby of the color of the eye, and will not use a bird that is poor in this respect, no matter how good otherwise. This is perhaps carrying the matter a little too far, as one should hardly sacrifice several good qualities because of weakness in one. Yet the color of the eye is an important thing and one should, if possible, use birds that possess the proper color. A good head throughout is a most desirable feature, and is worth working for, and should be considered when looking over birds with a view to their use in the breeding yard.

As the chick season advances and the development of the "youngsters" occupies much of the time and attention of the fancier, it should not be forgotten that the old birds require some attention. Look to the condition of their legs and feet, so that they may not get rough. An occasional greasing will keep them in good condition and may save a point or more in score at some show next season. Male birds sometimes get at each other the fence and injure the comb so that it may bleed, and the sight of blood will cause some hens to pick at the comb until it is ruined in shape. We have seen some flocks of hens that would practically pick a comb to pieces if they were not stopped. Where any accident happens to the comb of a bird it should be separated from the flock and the comb attended to and the bird kept by itself until the comb is healed, so that it will not attract the attention of any of the flock. Some hens are regular cannibals, and the sight of blood upon another bird will cause them to pick at it until, in some cases the bird is injured to such an extent that it dies. It pays to look out for all these things.

## Feeding Poultry.

There is so much said in the papers about over feeding that hardly knows what to do. I think if one uses good judgment and a variety of foods he will have strong, healthy birds.

I believe that chickens are generally not fed enough rather than overfed, especially at moulting time.

We took a trip last fall, and were away two or three weeks. We hired a neighbor, a good man, to stay and look after things while we were gone. My hens were just beginning to moult when we came home. There was only one ragged bird among them. I never saw hens look so bright and smooth in so short a time, and all, I believe, because the old gentlemen had fed them. He had kept shelled corn before them most of the time he said. I should have been afraid of getting them too fat, but I learned that they will not get too fat at moulting time, at least mine did not, and they went into winter in fine shape and came out healthy this spring.

Of course the Houdans are very active, going all day, and that may be the reason for their not being so easily overfed. There has not been a month for over a year that my hens have not been laying.

I don't understand why people do not keep more Houdans. They lay as large an egg as any hen I ever saw, they are very tame, and as handsome as chickens can be.

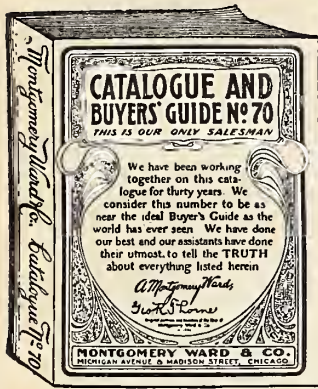
I have much too small a house for as many chickens as I have, but I keep it clean and keep my birds scratching all day, and I only lost three or four out of over a hundred, and they caught cold.

I am only a beginner, and have a good deal to learn, but good feed, good care and clean houses will, in my judgment, make good poultry and bring plenty of eggs.—Mrs. A. D. Palmer.—In P. H.

## How to Test Eggs.

To test eggs, if one hasn't a patent egg test, writes Alma Cole Pickering in the Farmer's Sentinel, a piece of good, stiff pasteboard will make a very good one. Cut it about the size of a sheet of letter paper and in the center cut a hole a little larger than a 50-cent piece, slightly oval. After dark take a lamp or lantern to the henhouse (the former is preferable), light it and set in a safe place. Carefully remove the eggs from one hen at a time. Hold an egg in front of the light, with the left hand hold the cardboard so the egg comes up flush with the opening in the card between you and the egg. If the egg is perfectly clear it is not fertile and should be placed aside to be cooked later on for the baby chicks. Proceed in this manner till all the eggs have been tested, retaining only the fertile eggs; where several hens have been set at the same date the fertile eggs can be given in a like manner as was first set to the number of hens as needed and fresh eggs given to





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such hens as will then have none, only be sure you change the dates on the record cards at such nest boxes as have thus been reset. Early in the season there is not such a high per cent of fertile eggs as later, and not infrequently two hens will take the eggs that three hens have been covering, or in that proportion.

When one becomes familiar with testing eggs during incubation they can often tell a fertile egg at four days, but it is safer for the novice to test after a week's incubation. If there are "doubtful" eggs—eggs that you are not sure are alive—better wait another week and test again. Should a nest become soiled, remove the eggs, putting in fresh material and wash the eggs in warm that thermometer test shows to be 105 degrees of warmth, wipe dry and replace. Do not fail to cleanse eggs that have been gummed by a broken egg, as the vitality of such soiled eggs is greatly injured.

We hope we have made this method of testing eggs during incubation plain and that it may prove helpful to new beginners. Someone may ask, "Why don't you have an incubator?" We have several, and there are many of our farmsisters who have not, and we have endeavored to give out helpful ways of hatching with hens as we used to do, and, for that matter, as we do yet.

Eggs must be tested that are hatched by incubators, for an explosion of a bad egg in the machine would be a most undesirable occurrence (so it is in a nest box), and since it can be avoided by testing eggs, why not prevent it?

Clean the roost boards often during the warm weather.

### An Absurd Theory.

An esteemed farm contemporary has a correspondent who has invented a new reason why eggs die in the shell. He says nature does not put into the shell enough food to nourish the embryo chick sufficiently, and that it actually starves to death when it dies in the shell. The theory is that a setting hen is always a fat hen. That she becomes poorer from sitting every one knows. "What becomes of this fat?" asks the Man-Who-Has-I-discovered-Something. He says the fat soaks out of the hen into the egg and nourishes the chick within. He is good enough to acknowledge that he doesn't know how this is done, but there is no other possible way to account for the loss of fat. This scientific gentlemen should feed his hens "red albumen." It was invented for those whose credulity is of the same kind as his.

Shut a hen in a box and leave her there without food and she will grow poorer every day. According to this theory the fat should be found in the box. This leads to speculation, Goose grease is a good thing for several purposes. There is an easy way to get this according to the new theory. All that needs being done is to shut a good fat goose in a box the material or which will not absorb the oil and in a few days several pound of goose grease may be recovered. Then turn the goose out, fat it again and repeat the operation.

Unfortunately for this discovered theory chickens do hatch without being nourished by the fat of the sitting hen, for hundreds of thousands are hatched every year in incu-

bators. A theory should at least seem plausible before being put into print. This one fails because it is not of that quality. When a chick lives to nineteen or twenty days and dies just before time to come out of the shell—and this is when most of them die—it is invariably full grown and well nourished showing that it did not lack for nourishment during the period of incubation up to the time it died. This theory is equal to one which was broached at a late farmers' institute, where one of the speakers declared that an incubator which does not give top and bottom heat will hatch healthy chicks, when the most successful incubators in the market give top heat alone. The trouble with a great many of these gentlemen is that their "facts" are not true.—Commercial Poultry.

Will our readers please send the names of 25 farmers or persons who keep and are interested in fine poultry, and the FANCIER & BREEDER will be sent to one of the number one year free, the rest will receive a sample copy.

Now that the hot days of spring have come, especial attention should be given to the poultry house. The small mites now hatch by the thousand each day. You will find them under the perches. These should be thoroughly covered with coal oil each week, or the mites will spread over the entire house. White-wash the inside with a spray pump, first removing all the nest boxes, loose fixtures, roosts, etc.

It pays to be ahead of time in any business, and the chicken business is no exception,

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**A Dollar Overlooked.**

Many who read this will perhaps question the title, but I think if they have the patience to follow me a little they will see the truth of the statement and become interested enough to enquire further into a branch of poultry raising that is neglected by many in a position to bring the dollar into view and use.

This is the time of year when most of us our hens and incubators at work their life-producing capacity, and a few short weeks will see the annual rush of broilers to the market to rid the premises of surplus cockrels. And this among the farmers who do not make a business of raising broilers is, of course, from the point economy in regard to feed, as the birds are worth as much or more at eight and ten weeks as at as many months unless caponized.

This brings us to the point in question which, it seems to the writer, is a most interesting one at this season, when those who may be inclined to take up this branch of the business will have ample time to think it over and prepare their young stock for a better market than they have before known with common fowl.

Turn now to the quotations in this paper and note capons at 14 cents per pound, and you will agree, I think, that it would pay to have your birds in such condition that they will add a third more flesh and at ten months and one year old be as tender and fatter than the broiler you were in such a hurry to market before he found out he was alive.

Most sections of the country have in the community some one who raises capons; to them, of course, I have little to say, but to those who have not as yet informed themselves as to the advantages to be derived from caponizing the heavier breeds of fowls, a plain statement of facts from one who is, if you like, a crank on this subject will not be out of place where the reading goes among so many who raise a greater or less number of fowls every year.

Castration is one of the most common practices on the farm, and, as is well known is the foundation for the production of the best in line of meats and such being the case why has it been overlooked in regard to poultry, when a capon is to an old rooster what a stall-fed 3-year-old steer is to bull beef?

It seems this alone might awake an interest in those who are fond of chicken on their own table, aside from the financial benefit, which amounts to no small sum in the course of a year, s production of poultry on the average farm.

The old saying, that figures won't lie, seems applicable here, and while not wishing to impress anyone with the idea that this is the only road to wealth, still the fact remains that with care and good management necessary to the successful issue of any business for profit the same principles applied to the raising of capons will convince

any one who goes at it in the proper manner that the following estimates are not far enough out to give me the worst of the argument.

It requires from 60 to 90 cents, according to location and resources, to mature any of the standard breeds of fowls suited for this purpose the different varieties of Orpingtons Plymouth Rocks, Wyandottes, Brahmas, Cochins and Langshans being the most profitable on account of the large size attained while for home use Mediterranean breeds are as much improved in flesh and flavor for the operation, and with the average capon at eight pounds and the price 20 cents at times, you see he has it all his own way when the call is for the best.

Now, then, if this be new to any of the readers of the Agriculturist, and they wish to test the worth of the foregoing, heed the homely but true admonition and make haste slowly, which seems to be well applied to the poultry business in particular.

If you are fortunate enough to know some one who will operate on your birds, try a few this year, and if you find they are what is claimed for them go a little higher next year, and help make the poultry industry of the United States at the head of all nations in producing the very best in table fowls. — W. S. Sullivan, in Wisconsin Agriculturist.

**A Profitable Farm Flock.**

There is the same necessity for having the farm flock consist of profitable individuals that there is in the case of the flocks and herds of larger animals and in a general way the same rules apply to making and maintaining such a flock, says the Epitomist. There is often on the farm a flock of common stock that is free from disease, hardy and vigorous, well acclimated and well accustomed to its surroundings and yet not very profitable. The one who has the care of this flock should look into the matter and learn if possible why it is so. Blood is much in a flock, but it is not everything. The one who cares for the flock should be able to tell the producers and non-producers; he should know the good mothers from those that are too lazy to scratch for one chick, should know those that readily respond to feed. He should consider the purpose for which the fowls are kept. We hear much today about general and special purpose cattle; the same distinctions should prevail in the poultry industry. When the purpose for which the flock is to be kept is decided upon whether for egg or meat, weed out the flock closely along this line. procure a purebred male of one of the breed appropriate to the purpose in view and grade up to the hardy, vigorous, wellacclimated birds, continuing the process of selection from generation to generation. This process is not so rapid, of course, as the substitution of the purebred flock from the start but it is safer, and with the increasing interest that will be taken as to care, management and selection, ability and knowledge to give purebred care will have been acquired by the time the flock is practically purebred.

*The Light Brahma.*

At the head of all standard-bred poultry, stands the Light Brahma of to-day. As a fancier's fowl, when bred according to the American Standard of Perfection, there can be nothing more lordly and beautiful than this representative of the Asiatic breed. Their immense size, pretty laced hackle, black tails, bay eyes and yellow beaks, together with a noble carriage, made them the admiration of all who have appreciation for the beautiful. A good strain of Light Brahmas will reproduce themselves fully as well, if not better, than any other parti-colored breed, throwing a very small per cent of culls.

From a utilitarian standpoint, this breed is to be found in the first ranks. I do not claim that they lay more eggs per annum than any of the other breeds, but that they are superior as winter layers is conceded by all unprejudiced breeders. Winter eggs are much more profitable than those which are laid in the summer, and therefore the yearly product of a Light Brahma female, from a pecuniary standpoint, will compare favorably with that of a Mediterranean or an American fowl. When we come to consider the carcass of the bird as a marketable article, I assert that the Light Brahma is excelled by none, not only in size and color of the skin, nor in tender juiciness. At the Boston Poultry Show, where this fowl was shown in competition with all the other prominent breeds, it took first premium for best dressed poultry; and Boston is the most fastidious market in this respect in America.

Being very hardy, the Light Brahma will thrive under conditions which would prove fatal to many other breeds. With the use of hens, I have hatched as early as February 9th, which were placed out of doors in warm boxes, each box being lighted with one pane of glass for a window, and a very large per cent of the chicks grew to maturity, although at times they were permitted to run about in the snow. Some breeders have the mistaken idea that these heavily feathered legs and toes are detriment to the breed, but this is not the case as the feathers are rather a protection than otherwise.

The Light Brahma is one of the most popular of the domesticated fowls, having more than held its own through the ups and downs of the fancy for thirty years or more. The demand for good birds is steadily increasing, and the end of each year finds the supply inadequate. I could have sold twice the number of Light Brahmas I disposed of the season if I had only possessed them. It is very aggravating to be obliged to return orders, and this season I shall make a determined effort; using both, incubator and hens, to breed enough good fowls to supply my orders, which, from present indications, I believe will greatly exceed those of last season.—Chas. E. Fond. W. P. J.

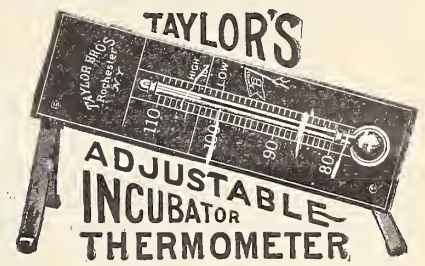
*Effects of Crossing.*

Crossing the breeds has never given good results, although a great many try it, and will continue to do so. In nearly all cases when the attempt is made to blend the best qualities of two different breeds the offspring is not equal to either parent, hence in the course of a few years there will be no uniformity, and the stock reverts to the scrub. Too much mixing is no better than keeping scrubs. It is right and proper to grade up a common flock with pure breeds, but to cross two pure breeds is a mistake. Where crossing is practiced largely, as with poultry the result is nearly always a failure, there being no uniformity of color, size or laying qualities. Pure breeds are really the results of judicious crossings and selections, and cannot be improved upon except after years of care and selection of the best individuals. The best possible security, short of the actual test, that any bird or animal will produce its character in its offspring is that these characteristics are known to have belonged to a long line of ancestors. Individual merit and adaptation to our needs should be the and most important points of selection. The character of the ancestors should be considered. It is not necessary to endeavor to determine the character of any one of the ancestors, for when pure breeds are used one gets at once the results of selection for years by those who worked in the past. Crossing destroys the work that others have done before.

*Vegetables For Hens.*

Hens deprived of green foods will not lay as well as when their needs in this direction are attended to. All the turnips, beets, carrots and roots of all kinds, large and small, should be saved and given them. These vegetables and herbs are good for poultry, cows and hogs. They are a good substitute for green food for hens. Peelings of potatoes, turnips and vegetables of all kinds, including apple peelings, should be saved for the poultry. Cut up fine and boiled and mixed with mash feed for the fowls. This furnishes them a splendid food. Such savings will be worth a dollar a bushel in winter and will do the hens more good than they could do the hogs if feed to them.

It was thought at one time that oats were the poorest food a hen could have, and to find that a man was only feeding oats was proof that he was not only stingy but starving his hens. But time and experience have shown that the stingy neighbor was not so far out of the way with his feed of oats. Oats are now considered to be one of the necessaries on a poultryman's bill of fare; but while they are good feed in their natural state, they are better if fed ground and mixed with scalding water, or, what is well, boiled whole and fed while warm. Chickens fed on oat-meal are seldom troubled with weak legs.



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## HOMES

### IN OLD VIRGINIA.

It is gradually brought to light that the Civil war has made great changes. freed the slaves, and in consequence has made the large land owners poor and finally freed the land from the origin: 1 holders who would not sell until they were compelled to do so. There are some of the finest of land in the market at very low prices, land that produces all kinds of crops, grasses, fruits, and berries; fine for stock. You find green truck patches, such as cabbage, turnips, lettuce kale, spinach, etc, growing all the winter. The climate is the best all the year around to be found, not too cold nor too warm. Good water. Healthy. Railroads running in every direction. If you desire to know all about Virginia send 10c. for three months subscription of the VIRGINIA FARMER to the Farmer Co., Emporia, Va.

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### NOTES.

Neglected advertising is neglected opportunity.

It pays to keep the fowls strong and vigorous.

Cull out the poor layers and give the prolific hens more room.

If you allow fowls to become weakened disease can get a easy start.

Wen milk can be had it should be used instead of water for mixing the mash.

More or less experience is absolutely necessary to make a success in poultry business.

Poultry manure, rightly managed' is one of the fertilizers that can be used on the farm

Fresh eggs are always at a premium and will command fancy prices especially in a large city.

Fowls are great drinkers and a great deal of roup is brought on by drinking impure water.

The drinking dish or fount should be protected from filth and should be frequently washed.

How do you use your hen manure and what results do you obtain from the crops to which it is applied.

We like to have a few guineas around our yards. When evening seems quiet and dead they alone will liven things up.

There is a vast difference in the number of eggs different hens lay. What kind are you housing, feeding and caring for?

Keep your surroundings clean, filth and vermin are great friends. Where there is one you will always find the other.

It is bad policy to keep a lot of vigorous young cockerels with laying hens. They are a nuisance and should be abated.

By providing the hens with nice clean nests in sheltered corners you will encourage them to lay. It will pay you to look after this matter closely.

There is little profit in feeding corn as an exclusive gram ration, it is neither a flesh former or egg producer, but an excellent fattening food.

When you set the incubator it would be a good plan to set a few hens to care for the chicks hatched if you have no brooder. But better get a brooder.

Always see that your customer gets a better bird than he pays for, and you will never lack steady customers. Work for your customers' interests and then they'll work for yours.

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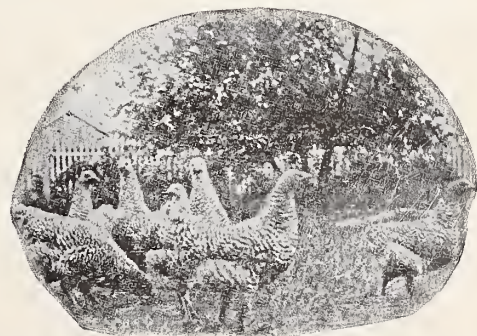
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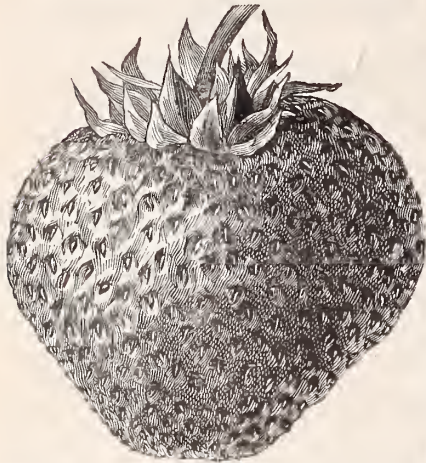
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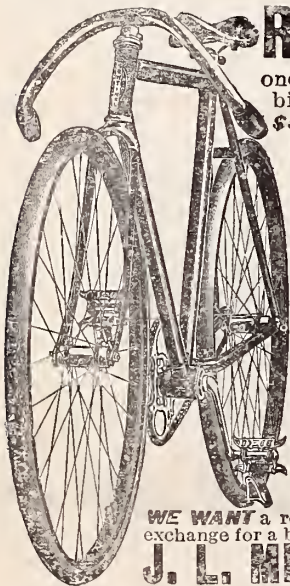
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